

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**DOCKETING DEPARTMENT**

**DOCKET NO. 2006-99-C**

**NOTICE OF FILING**

Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. ("Bluffton") and Hargray Telephone Company, Inc. ("Hargray") (collectively, the "Petitioners") have filed a Petition requesting implementation of an Extended Area Service ("EAS") Plan. The Petitioners propose to have the Commission implement the Plan, which simplifies the current expanded calling options by offering wide-area calling at a fixed, affordable rate. Pursuant to the Plan, as described in the Petition, the Petitioners would eliminate all current Extended Flat Rate Service plans (currently \$10.00 for residential customers and \$20.00 for business customers, allowing customers of both Bluffton and Hargray to call all customers within both companies' service areas) and all Measured EAS ("MEAS") charges (currently \$.04 per minute for calling to a wide number of exchanges in South Carolina and Georgia, as fully set forth in the respective companies' tariffs and in the Petition). In lieu of those options, the Petitioners would have an extended EAS area that includes Petitioners' service areas as well as all of the exchanges that currently are subject to MEAS charges. The Plan would require a mandatory monthly EAS adder of \$2.25 for all residential customers and \$4.50 for all business customers. According to the Petition, the majority of Petitioners' residential and business customers would either experience an overall decrease or would see no change in their total bills for expanded calling as a result of implementing the proposed plan.

A copy of the Petition is on file in the offices of the Commission, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210, the Commission's web site at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov), and is available from Margaret M. Fox, Esquire, McNair Law Firm, P.A., Post Office 11390, Columbia, South Carolina 29211.

A public hearing, if scheduled, will be held in Columbia, South Carolina in the offices of the Commission at the above address, for the purpose of receiving testimony and other evidence from all interested parties regarding this Petition. The time and date of this hearing will be furnished to all interested parties at a later date.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record with the right of cross-examination should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before **May 15, 2006**, and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. Please include an email address for receipt of future Commission correspondence in the Petition to Intervene. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2006-99-C.***

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing, if scheduled, should notify the Docketing Department in writing at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff at Post Office Box 11263, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, and Margaret M. Fox, Esquire, at the above address, on or before **May 15, 2006**, and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2006-99-C.***

Any person who wishes to be notified of any change in the hearing, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Docketing Department in writing at the address below on or before **May 15, 2006**. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2006-99-C.***

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission at (803) 896-5100.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
Attn: Docketing Department  
Post Office Drawer 11649  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211